

AGRICULTURE FOR GRADES

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THE CLOVER CROP



THE farmer that has learned the importance of the clover crop in a rotation on his farm is on the road to successful agriculture. The clovers may be divided into four classes, annuals, biennials, triennials and perennials. The Scarlet, or Crimson, clover is an annual. It is a valuable green manure crop. It may be sown by itself in the early fall, but it is a better policy to sow it at the last cultivation of late potatoes (the potatoes should be dug with fork, turning the hill over in place, that as few clover plants as possible are injured), corn, kale, and many garden crops. Some gardeners have learned the value of this as a green manure. Sow from fifteen to twenty pounds of seed per acre. It will be ready to cut or plow under in May. Crimson clover will grow on soils where other clovers fail.

The Red, or Broadleaf, clover is a biennial. This variety is extensively used throughout the United States. It grows best on loams and heavy soils that are well supplied with water, but not wet. Sow from twelve to twenty pounds of seed per acre. I find that it does well here when sown with oats in February or March. Sow broadcast ahead of the grain seeder, that the clover seed will be well worked into the soil. At harvest time, cut the oats high and follow the binder with the mowing machine. The stubble forms a mulch and the leaf surface of the plants is reduced to save moisture that is much needed at this time of the year.

Alsike, or Swedish, clover is a triennial. It does well on moist, cool land, either for hay or pasture. It is also a fine bee plant. As a hay it is of the best. It is very fine and soft and is all consumed by stock, while the coarse stems of some varieties are rejected. Good results are obtained by sowing this and mammoth clover together. The seed is smaller than some other clovers. Sow fifteen pounds per acre. Care should be taken not to cover deeply. Sow broadcast on the surface and trust to the rains to cover the seed.

The White, or Dutch, clover is a perennial that bears its small fragrant white heads on stems which grow at or along the surface of the ground. This stem also sends out roots as it spreads. This clover is useful for pasture, bees, and lawns. It is very hardy and spreads rapidly when once established. It withstands parturing and is much prized by the